

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 888

EXDIS

PLEASE PASS AMB. KEARNEY (L)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG APER UN

SUBJECT: LEGAL COUNSEL

1. FREELAND (UK) TOLD MISOFF UK HAS INFORMED DAVIDSON (USYG) OF UK INTEREST IN LEGAL COUNSEL POST. AMB. CROWE (UK PERM REP) PLANS DISCUSS MATTER WITH SYG AT EARLY OPPORTUNITY. IT NOT CLEAR HOW WIDELY UK INTEREST IS KNOWN.

2. MISOFF IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION ASKED STAVROPOULOS WHERE LEGAL COUNSEL MATTER STOOD AND STAVROPOULOS REPLIED SITUATION WIDE OPEN. HE SAID SYG HAD RECEIVED WRITTEN INQUIRY FROM BELGIANS AND SENT BACK " VAGUE COLLECTION OF WORDS WHICH MEAN NOTHING " AND AS RESULT BELGIANS SENDING SUY TO SEABEDS COMITE TO ATTEMPT FORCE CLARIFICATION.

3. STAVROPOULOS BELIEVES SUY' S POSITION HAS WEAKENED BUT THAT HE STILL HAS FAIR CHANCE SINCE ALL OTHER POSSIBILITIES SEEM FLAWED. HE BELIEVES IT POLITICALLY ALL BUT IMPOSSIBLE TO APPOINT A GERMAN (GOLSONG) AND REGARDS FREELAND AS SOMEWHAT JUNIOR AND DOUBTS SYG WILL GIVE LEGAL COUNSEL POST TO PERM MEMBER, PARTICULARLY WHILE CO- NATIONAL THAT PERM MEMBER HAS INFLUENTIAL ASYG POST (URQUHART).

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4. PROHASKA (PERSONAL ASST. TO SYG) STATES MATTER COMPLETELY UNDECIDED, WHEN ASKED WHAT SYG WILL TELL

SUY WHEN LATTER SHOWS UP IN NEXT FEW DAYS, PROHASKA REPLIED " MAYBE THAT THE MATTER IS UNDECIDED, MAYBE WHAT THE DECISION IS IF ONE IS MADE BY THEN." HE SAID PART OF THE PROBLEM WAS THAT ANY DECISION RE LEGAL COUNSEL POST AFFECTS MANY OTHER POSTS AND CERTAIN DECISIONS REMAINED TO BE MADE ON SOME OF THESE OTHER POSTS.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY INDICATED THAT, WHILE NOT IDEAL CANDIDATE, WE THINK SUY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE AND FAR BETTER THAN SOME OTHER CONCEIVABLE POSSIBILITIES, ESPECIALLY LA' S. WE WOULD BE PREPARED BE FAR MORE AFFIRMATIVE WITH REGARD TO FREELAND. HIS NAME DID NOT OCCUR TO US EARLIER BECAUSE HE SOMEWHAT JUNIOR AND THIS MIGHT BE IMPEDIMENT TO HIS GETTING JOB. HE IS, HOWEVER, INTELLIGENT, TACTFUL, VERY WELL LIKED. WE HAVE NO DOUBT FROM POINT OF VIEW OF US AND UN HE WOULD DO OUTSTANDING JOB.
PHILLIPS

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